

**REMARKS**

The Final Rejection mailed September 7, 2006, has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the application has been amended in a manner which is believed to place it into consideration for allowance. Accordingly reconsideration and withdrawal of the Office Action and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

At the outset, the Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 26 and the allowance of claims 9, 16-18, 34 and 42.

The rejected and withdrawn claims have been canceled. The Applicants reserve the right to re-submit them in continuation and divisional applications. Also, claim 26 has been rewritten in independent form.

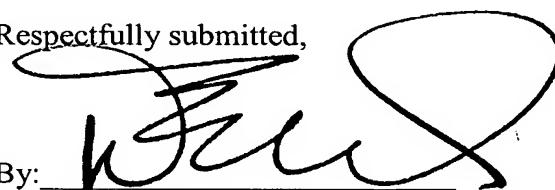
Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding grounds of rejection and objection have been rendered moot.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice of such allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any issues remain that can be overcome most easily through a telephone communication, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Please charge any deficiency in fees, or credit any overpayment thereof, to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (000687-00302). If a separate petition for extension of time does not accompany this Amendment or is insufficient to render this Amendment timely, the Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this Amendment timely. Any fee due is authorized above.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

David J. Edmondson  
Registration No. 35,126

BLANK ROME LLP  
Watergate 600, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
600 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037-2485  
(202) 772-5800 (Phone)  
(202) 572-8398 (Facsimile)